

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5 1. A key chain rechargeable device, comprising:
key securing structure;
an electronic device associated with said key securing
structure; and
a rechargeable battery source to power said electronic
device;
10 wherein said key chain rechargeable device is recharged
from an external power source when a key associated with said securing
structure is inserted in a lock device.

15 2. The key chain rechargeable device according to claim 1,
wherein:
said key securing structure is a dummy key hole.

20 3. The key chain rechargeable device according to claim 1,
further comprising:
a charging circuit in said electronic device, said charging
circuit adapted for electrical contact with a key secured by said key
securing structure.

25 4. The key chain rechargeable device according to claim 3,
wherein:
said charging circuit is permanently associated with said key
chain rechargeable device.

5. The key chain rechargeable device according to claim 3,
wherein:
said charging circuit is permanently associated with said
lock.

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6. The key chain rechargeable device according to claim 1,
wherein:
said external power source is a vehicle's electrical system.

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7. The key chain rechargeable device according to claim 1,
wherein:
said key chain rechargeable device is a wireless RF device.

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8. The key chain rechargeable device according to claim 1,
wherein:
said key chain rechargeable device is a BLUETOOTH
network device.

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9. The key chain rechargeable device according to claim 1,
wherein:
said key chain rechargeable device is a security alarm
enable/disable device.

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10. The key chain rechargeable device according to claim
1, wherein:
said key chain rechargeable device is a keyless entry
remote.

11. The key chain rechargeable device according to claim 1, wherein:

said key chain rechargeable device is a penlight device.

12. The key chain rechargeable device according to claim 1, wherein:

said key chain rechargeable device is a pager.

13. The key chain rechargeable device according to claim 1, further comprising:

an inductive coil to receive charging power to charge said rechargeable battery source.

14. The key chain rechargeable device according to claim 1, further comprising:

at least one electrical conductor on a key secured to said key securing structure.

15. The key chain rechargeable device according to claim 1, wherein:

said key chain rechargeable device is recharged from said external power source only when said key associated with said securing structure is inserted in said lock device.

16. A vehicle ignition assembly, comprising:

a lock device;

a vehicle ignition switch connected to said lock device; and

at least two electrical charging connections associated with said lock device and adapted to provide opposite polarity contacts to a key inserted in said lock device.

17. The vehicle ignition assembly according to claim 16,
further comprising
a battery charging circuit connected to said opposite polarity
5 contacts.

18. A vehicle ignition assembly, comprising:
a lock device;
a vehicle ignition switch connected to said lock device; and
10 an inductive charging coil adapted to provide battery
charging power to a key chain rechargeable device placed proximate to
said vehicle ignition assembly.

19. A method of recharging a key chain electronic device,
15 comprising:
inserting a key on a key chain in a lock device; and
coupling a rechargeable battery of a key chain electronic
device to an external power source associated with said lock device only
when said key is in said lock device.

20. The method of recharging a key chain electronic device
according to claim 19, wherein:
said coupling is inductive.

21. The method of recharging a key chain electronic device
according to claim 19, wherein:
said coupling is by direct electrical contact of opposite
25 polarity conductors.

22. Apparatus for recharging a key chain electronic device,
comprising:

key chain means for securing a key while inserted in a lock
device; and

means for coupling a rechargeable battery of a key chain
electronic device to an external power source associated with said lock
device only when said key is in said lock device.

23. The apparatus for recharging a key chain electronic
device according to claim 22, wherein:

said means for coupling uses inductive coupling.

24. The apparatus for recharging a key chain electronic
device according to claim 22, wherein:

said means for coupling uses direct electrical contact of
opposite polarity conductors.

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